September 13, 2013

Alberta Economy

indicators at a glance

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Industry

In 2012, Alberta's real GDP by industry advanced 3.9%, the strongest growth among the provinces and the third consecutive year of robust growth. Real GDP growth was 5.3% in 2011. Nationally, real GDP rose 1.8% in 2012, lower than the 2.6% recorded in 2011.

Population

As of April 1, 2013, Alberta's population was estimated at 3,965,339, a 3.2% increase from a year earlier. Nationally, population grew 1.1% over the same period to reach 35,141,542.

Migration

During the first quarter of 2013, Alberta welcomed 13,438 net interprovincial migrants and 13,674 net international migrants.

Employment[1]

Alberta employment posted a strong gain in August (15,200) building off of a large increase in the previous month (16,600).

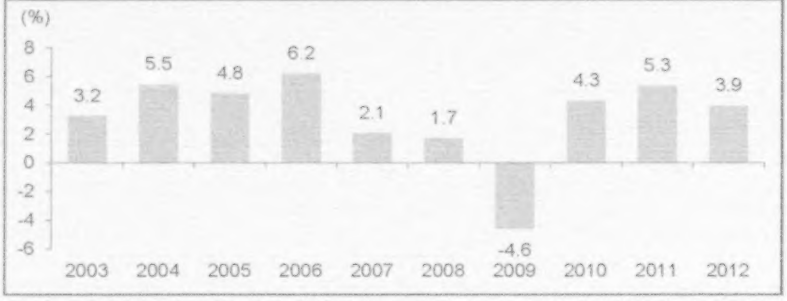
Unemployment[1]

Alberta's unemployment rate edged up 0.3 percentage points to 4.8 per cent in August. This is well below the national average (7.1%).

Rigs Drilling

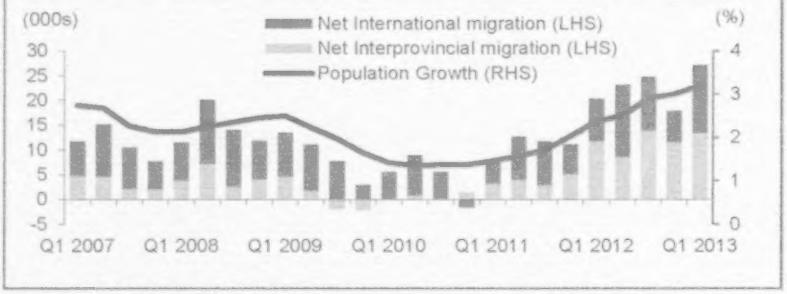
Alberta's active rig count averaged 239 in August, an increase of 7.0% year-over-year. Rig utilization was 39.7%, 2.5 percentage points higher than the same month last year.

Real GDP by Industry
(Annual, year-over-year % change)



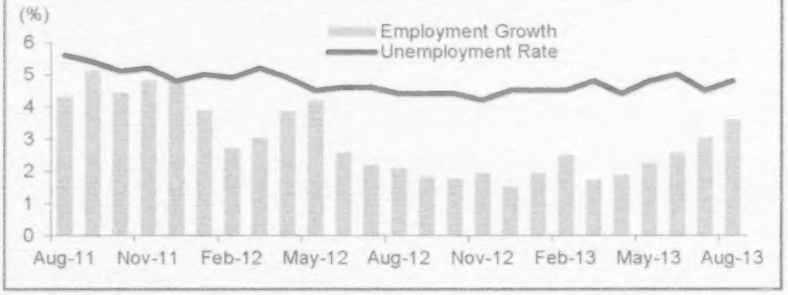
Source: Statistics Canada; Note: 2007-2012 GDP by industry estimates have been revised as of April 26. Historical revisions prior to 2007 will not be released until November 2013.

Demographics
(Quarterly, population is year-over-year % change)



Source: Statistics Canada

Labour Market
(Monthly, employment is year-over-year % change)



Source: Statistics Canada

Inflation

Alberta's CPI inflation edged down to 2.2% in July. Nationally, the inflation rate was 1.3% in July, up from 1.2% in the previous month.

Average Weekly Earnings[1]

In June, Alberta's average weekly earnings was $1,109.80, up 3.9% compared with June 2012, but down 0.9% from the previous month. Year-to-date earnings are up 4.0%.

Retail Trade[1]

Alberta retail sales were $6.1 billion in June, down 0.6% from May, but 7.7% higher than June 2012. Nationally, retail sales fell 0.6% in June. They were 3.1% higher than in June 2012.

NEW: Housing Starts

Housing starts in Alberta fell to 26,900 (seasonally adjusted at annual rate) in August, down 7.9% from August 2012. Year to date housing starts are 35,300 (+7.3%).

NEW: New Housing Price Index (NHPI)

Alberta's NHPI increased by 3.0% year-over-year in July, led by Calgary (+5.8%). Nationally, the NHPI rose 1.9% over the same period.

NEW: Building Permits[1]

The total value of Alberta's building permits in June was $1.6 billion, up 50.1% over the same month last year. The year-over-year increase reflects gains in both residential (+29.8%) and non-residential permits (+78.0%).

[1] Seasonally adjusted

Contact:
Alexander Gainer 780.638.3238

Inflation and Earnings
(Monthly, CPI and AWE are year-over-year % change)

Source: Statistics Canada

Retail Sales
(Monthly, year-over-year % change)

Source: Statistics Canada

Housing Market
(Monthly)

Source: CMHC and Statistics Canada

	2012–13 Actual	2013–14 YTD	Latest
WTI Oil ($US/bbl)	92.07	99.50	108.60 (September 12)
Natural Gas (ARP, $C/GJ)	2.29	3.18	3.17 (June)